



Council for Lifelong Learning Postsecondary Remediation

Fact Sheet

September 2001

<p>1. What is postsecondary "remedial" education?</p>	<p>Within Florida's postsecondary educational system, "remedial education" is synonymous with "college-preparatory" or "college-prep" instruction. Section 239.105 F.S., defines "college-preparatory instruction" as "courses through which a high school graduate who applies for an associate in arts degree program or an associate in science degree program may attain the communication and computation skills necessary to enroll in college credit instruction."</p>
<p>2. Why is postsecondary remediation necessary?</p>	<p>Historically, Florida's community colleges have operated under an admissions process that is best described as an "open door" policy. This policy guarantees access to postsecondary education to all citizens through the Community College System. Because access is "open," students arrive with a wide variety of skill levels. New students can include high school honors students, recent high school graduates who have never taken higher level courses to become "college ready", or returning adults in need of a refresher course before challenging college credit courses. Postsecondary remediation courses provide students the skills necessary to succeed in college level courses.</p>
<p>3. How is student readiness tested?</p>	<p>Performance in reading, writing/language, or mathematics for each student is gauged by scores on the Florida College Placement Test (CPT), the SAT, or the ACT. Students are considered "ready" for college in each of the three areas if scores on one of those three exams meet the required score of competency for each given area. For example, if a student receives a verbal score of 450 and a math score of 400 on the SAT, the student would be considered "ready" college in reading and writing/language (threshold is 440) but in need of remediation in math (threshold is 440).</p>
<p>4. Who offers postsecondary remedial education?</p>	<p>Current law requires Florida community college or state university students who score below standardized passing scores on the Common Placement Test (or other comparable exam) to enroll in college-preparatory or other adult education courses in community colleges to develop needed college-entry skills. Community colleges must, however, advise students of alternative methods of meeting remedial education needs, such as using instruction from private providers. Community colleges may provide the remedial instruction on state university campuses. Additionally, any state university which</p>

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	<p>offered remedial education prior to January 1, 1996 may continue to offer remedial education.</p>
<p>5. What is the cost of remediation to the student?</p>	<p>The first two times a student enrolls in a remedial course, he or she pays the normal fee. If the course is taken a third time, the student must pay 100 percent of the cost of instruction. This policy is consistent with the policy for students enrolled in college credit courses.</p>
<p>6. What information is available regarding the preparedness of Florida's public high school graduates?</p>	<p>The Commissioner of Education is required to report to the State Board of Education, the Legislature, and the school districts on the performance of public high school student who enroll in public postsecondary institutions. The report produced by the Department of Education to fulfill this requirement is called the "Readiness For College Report". The report includes data for all students who graduate with a standard diploma from a Florida public high school and who enter a public postsecondary institution as a degree-seeking student. The report does <i>not</i> include graduates who do not go to college; graduates who attend private or out-of-state colleges; transfer students; casual or non-degree-seeking students; students who take time off between high school and college; GED or non-standard diploma recipients; and private high school graduates. The report is based on data provided by the state universities, public community colleges, and state supported postsecondary vocational-technical centers.</p> <p>Summary reports are prepared for the state as a whole, for each school district, and for each public high school. The summary reports must indicate the number of prior year graduates who enrolled in state-supported vocational-technical centers, community colleges, and state universities in Florida during the previous summer, fall, and spring terms and the number of those students whose scores on the entry-level placement tests indicate readiness for postsecondary education or the need for remediation through basic skills instruction or college-preparatory instruction. Each school district and high school must use the annual feedback report for developing school improvement plan strategies aimed at improving student readiness for the public postsecondary level.</p>
<p>7. How many students need postsecondary remedial education?</p>	<p>According to the 1999-2000 "Readiness for College" report, 63 percent of standard diploma high school graduates who became degree-seeking students in a public postsecondary institution in Florida were considered "ready" for college. This means 37 percent needed at least one remedial course in math, reading, or writing. These percentages, however, are an improvement over 1997-1998 graduates (61.5% and 38.5%)</p>

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	and 1996-1997 graduates (58.8% and 41.2%).
8. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	<p>Section 239.105, F.S. -- Definition of "college-preparatory instruction"</p> <p>Section 239.301, F.S. -- Adult general education</p> <p>Section 240.117, F.S. -- Common placement testing for public postsecondary education</p> <p>Section 240.118, F.S. -- Postsecondary feedback of information to high schools</p> <p>Rule 6A-10.035 -- College Preparatory Testing Placement and Instruction</p> <p>Rule 6A-10.038 -- Postsecondary Feedback of Student Information to High Schools</p>
9. Where can I get additional information?	<p>Florida Department of Education Division of Community Colleges (850) 488-1721 www.dcc.firn.edu</p> <p>Florida Department of Education K-16 Articulation (850) 922-0344 www.firn.edu/doe/postsecondary/college.htm</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Colleges & Universities (850) 488-3711</p>